



Softball

Softball

I. DATE OF CHAMPIONSHIP

The NCCAA National Softball Championship shall be held the second Thursday, Friday and Saturday in May. Region championship must be completed by date provided. (This means region can dictate when they will have their region tournament.) Any variance from dates listed shall be made by a National Softball Committee mandate.

Regional Championships

May 8, 2010
May 7, 2011
May 5, 2012
May 4, 2013

National Championships

May 13-15, 2010
May 12-14, 2011
May 10-12, 2012
May 9-11, 2013

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Institutions must send an official eligibility certificate (see Eligibility Section of NCCAA Handbook) to its Region Sports Chair prior to the institution's first intercollegiate softball contest.
- B. **April 1 is the deadline for official rosters (see [Appendix A](#)) and team pictures to be **RECEIVED** by the National Championship Director (Bob White, Palm Beach Atlantic University). Softball Championship Rosters **must** have Athletics Director's and coach's signatures in order to be accepted by the National Championship Director. **If the Championship Roster is not received on the pre-determined date or the appropriate signatures are not included, eligibility to participate in the Regional and National Championship shall be denied.****
- C. All NCCAA member institutions must send to the National Office a completed Declaration of Intent to Participate form by September 15 for all varsity sports. Amendments for Winter sports must be submitted by January 15 and Spring sports by March 1.

III. TEAM SELECTION

- A. A qualifying championship must be held in order to receive an automatic bid. No team may play in national competition unless it played in regional play or meets the criteria in Item B.
- B. Should there be no playoff in a region due to lack of multiple teams, a lone regional representative becomes automatically eligible for an at-large bid.
- C. The host institution is encouraged to compete in regional play. Should the host team win, it shall advance to the National Softball Championship as its regional representative.
- D. Should the National Championship host not win its regional championship, it shall receive an automatic bid to the National Softball Championship as host institution.
- E. The National Softball Committee and National Softball Chair shall select at-large berths by using the ranking in the most recent national rankings using the revised Burbridge System.
- F. Teams wishing to make a bid for an at-large berth may do so by having their Regional Softball Chair submit their request during the conference call.
- G. The Regional Championship Director is responsible for calling in the Regional Championship results to the National Championship Director immediately following the Regional Championship. The results shall include overall records and championship scores. The Regional Championship Director shall also give notice of any at-large bids. **These responsibilities must be completed by the Saturday before the National Championship.**
- H. The National Softball Chair shall arrange a conference call (see Forms & Procedures Section) with the National Softball Committee on Sunday night prior to the National Championship in order to decide the at-large berths and championship pools.

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- I. If a Regional Championship is completely rained out, the region shall decide on a representative.
 - J. Each region **must** send a copy of its championship structure as well as the rainout provisions to the National Softball Chair **prior** to April 1.
 - K. Revised Burbridge Ranking System (see [Appendix B](#)) shall be used for all Regional and National Championships.
 - L. Weekly statistical reports must be complete, accurate and submitted to the National Statistician in order for teams to compete in Regional and National Championships. Statistics shall be submitted on each Monday during the softball season beginning with Monday, March 16, 2009.
 - M. **Any team missing two or more statistical updates shall not be considered for Regional or National Championship play.** Notification shall be sent to institutions that have failed to send in their statistical report on time. After the second violation, a written notice of disqualification shall be sent.

IV. CONDUCT OF CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. Teams included shall be the champions of each region, the host school and the number of at-large berths not to exceed 10. It is highly recommended that the championship be a 10-team tournament. The National Softball Committee shall have the flexibility to reduce the number of participants if it desires.
- B. Championship seeding
 - 1. The championship seeding shall be the responsibility of the National Softball Committee.
 - 2. The championship seeding shall be determined on the Sunday preceding the championship.
 - 3. The Regional Championship winners shall be the top seeds. Burbridge rating shall be used to seed these regional champions.
 - 4. Remaining at-large berths shall be seeded using Burbridge rating.
- C. The restrictions shall be as follows:
 - 1. The championship shall not exceed three days.
 - 2. The championship shall be a double elimination 6-10-team championship with a 2-game guarantee.
 - 3. Games shall be set up to determine final placing from #1 to #6-10 finishers.

V. CHAMPIONSHIP SITE AND GAME REGULATIONS

- A. National Championship games must be played on an official softball field as defined by current NCAA Softball rules.
- B. It is recommended that two official regulation size, fenced-in fields be used.
- C. If the fence distance is adjustable, the NCCAA requests an outfield fence with a minimum of 190 feet and a maximum of 225 feet.
- D. All fields must be skinned for National Championship play.
- E. The official ball is the Wilson A9010B SST.
- F. A five inning, eight-run rule shall be used.
- G. NCAA rules shall be used.
- H. The championship site shall be selected at the National Softball Meeting during the National Championship. All interested institutions should submit the Contract Bid (see Forms & Procedures Section) to the National Office prior to the Softball Coaches' Association meeting on the Wednesday prior to championship play.

VI. OFFICIALS

- A. The Championship Director shall secure all the officials for the National Championship.

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- B. The Championship Director shall assign officials for all games through, and including, the finals.
 - C. A minimum of two officials shall be provided for National Championship games.

VII. SELECTION OF THE NCCAA ALL-TOURNAMENT SOFTBALL TEAM AND MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

- A. An All-Tournament Team of 16 players shall be selected at the National Championship.
- B. A National Championship Most Valuable Player shall be selected.
- C. The All-Tournament Team shall be announced at the awards presentation immediately following the championship game.
- D. The method for selecting the All-Tournament Team and the Most Valuable Player shall be the responsibility of the participating team coaches. This decision shall be made at the National Championship Coaches Meeting.

VIII. SELECTION OF NCCAA ALL-AMERICAN SOFTBALL TEAM

- A. An All-American First Team of 20 players shall be selected annually at the National Championship. This shall include a “Player of the Year” and “Pitcher of the Year”.
- B. An All-American Second Team of up to 20 players shall also be selected.
- C. Only individuals who have been selected to the NCCAA All-Regional Team, and are from institutions that have paid their participation fees, shall be considered.
- D. Coaches who wish to have players considered for All-American honors must send completed statistics package and nomination forms to the All-American Chair on or before the established deadline. The All-American Chair for 2010 is Deb Thompson, Spring Arbor University.
- E. The complete All-American nomination package consists of computer generated stats and [Appendix C](#) for each player nominated. Appropriate signatures must be included.
- F. Coaches may nominate no more than four players for All-American consideration. They may also vote for their own players during the balloting.
- G. The All-Region team must be submitted to National Chair in the order of the voting with #1 being the top vote. Voting number shall also be included in information sent with each All-Region team.

IX. SELECTION OF NCCAA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE SOFTBALL TEAM

- A. A Scholar-Athlete Team shall be selected at the site of the National Championship.
- B. Player must be of junior or senior status.
- C. Player must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.40 or higher.
- D. Nomination form (see [Appendix D](#)) must be received by the Scholar-Athlete Chair prior to the established deadline. The Scholar-Athlete Chair for 2010 is Rocky Stinson, Bryan College.
- E. All forms submitted to the Scholar-Athlete Chair must have the appropriate signatures.

X. RAINOUT DELAY

- A. Every effort shall be made to complete the championship as structured.

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- B. If a rainout occurs Thursday, the championship shall be played with the same double elimination format starting Friday and Saturday to finish.
 - C. If a rainout occurs on Thursday and Friday, the championship shall be completed on Saturday in a single elimination format with times being subject to change as needed.
 - D. If a rainout occurs on Friday and Saturday, the champion shall be the number one seed unless it has been beaten. Should the number one seed be in the loser's bracket, the highest undefeated seed shall be the champion.
 - E. If the championship is completely rained out, it shall be considered no contest.
 - F. The National Softball Chair and the Championship Director reserve the right to adjust times of the schedule as needed due to weather considerations.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Coin toss shall determine home team.
- B. Game time shall be determined by uniform time on schedule, unless rainout occurs.
- C. The National Coach of the Year shall be the coach of the NCCAA National Softball Championship team.
- D. The National Championship Director shall establish an Appeals Committee.

X. OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

Softball: Official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Softball Rules with NAIA-Softball Coaches Association approved modifications. Rule books may be purchased by contacting NCAA, PO Box 6222, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222, telephone: (317) 917-6222.

2009-2010 NCCAA Softball Important Dates to Remember

- Before 1st contest Eligibility Certificate to Regional Chair (**not** Regional Softball Chair)
- March 15 Initial NCCAA Softball Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- March 22 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- March 29 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- April 1 **Deadline for official roster ([Appendix A](#)), team picture and mascot logo of participating teams in regional play to be received by the National Championship Director: PLEASE DO NOT FAX THE PICTURE.**
Bob White Phone: (561) 803-2333
Palm Beach Atlantic University Fax: (561) 803-2532
901 S. Flagler Drive E-Mail: bob_white@pba.edu
West Palm Beach, FL 33416
- April 1 Proposed championship structure for Region Championships (from Regional Chairs) to National Softball Chair:
Deb Thompson
Spring Arbor University Phone: (517) 750-6507
106 E. Main Street Fax: (517) 750-2745
Spring Arbor, MI 49283 E-mail: deb.thompson@arbor.edu
- April 5 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- April 12 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- April 19 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- April 26 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- May 3 NCCAA Statistics to, stats@thenccaa.org
- May 8 Deadline to **receive** Regional Championship results and All-Region selections to:
Deb Thompson Phone: (517) 750-6507
Spring Arbor University Fax: (517) 750-2745
E-mail: deb.thompson@arbor.edu
- May 9 **Updated Burbridge Ratings by 12:00 pm EST.** These will be used for seeding the National Championship Tournament. stats@thenccaa.org
- May 9 **National Softball Committee** Conference Call for national seeding. (Time – TBA).
(National and Vice Chairs, Region Chairs, NCCAA National Representative, NCCAA National Statistician)
- May 11 Deadline to **receive** NCCAA Scholar-Athlete forms, ([Appendix D](#)) to: (**No official transcripts are necessary**)
Rocky Stinson Phone: (423) 775-7193
Bryan College Fax: (423) 775-7485
PO Box 7813 E-mail: rocky.stinson@bryan.edu
Dayton, TN 37321
- May 11 Deadline to **receive** All-American nominations ([Appendix C](#)) to:
Deb Thompson Phone: (517) 750-6507
Spring Arbor University Fax: (517) 750-2745
106 E. Main Street E-mail: deb.thompson@arbor.edu
Spring Arbor, MI 49283
- May 12 **Championship Coaches Meeting and NCCAA Softball meeting at 9:00 pm.**
- May 13-15 NCCAA National Championship Tournament at Palm Beach Atlantic

Appendix A NCCAA Softball Official Roster

IMPORTANT: Roster must be **RECEIVED** by the National Championship Director **no later than April 1, 2010** and must contain appropriate signatures. Please fax or e-mail to:

Bob White	Phone: (561) 803-2333
Palm Beach Atlantic University	Fax: (561) 803-2532
901 S. Flagler Drive	E-Mail: bob_white@pba.edu
West Palm Beach, FL 33416	

Please Type

Institution _____ Region _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number	Light/ Dark	Name	Year	Position	Hometown/State
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
17.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
18.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Head Coach _____ Work Phone (____)____-____ Home Phone (____)____-____
 Assistant Coach _____ Team Nickname _____
 Athletics Director _____ School Colors _____

Coach's Signature

Date

Athletics Director's Signature

Date

Appendix B Revised Burbridge Rating Method NCCAA Softball

I. FORMULA

VICTORIES

On the road against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	9 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	8 points
NCAA Division III	7 points
NCCAA Division I	7 points
NCCAA Division II	6 points

At home against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	8 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	7 points
NCAA Division III	6 points
NCCAA Division I	6 points
NCCAA Division II	5 points

On the road against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	7 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	6 points
NCAA Division III	5 points
NCCAA Division I	5 points
NCCAA Division II	4 points

At home against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	6 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	5 points
NCAA Division III	4 points
NCCAA Division I	4 points
NCCAA Division II	3 points

LOSSES

On the road against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	5 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	4 points
NCAA Division III	3 points
NCCAA Division I	3 points
NCCAA Division II	2 points

At home against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	4 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	3 points
NCAA Division III	2 points
NCCAA Division I	2 points
NCCAA Division II	1 points

On the road against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	3 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	2 points
NCAA Division III	1 points
NCCAA Division I	1 points
NCCAA Division II	0 points

At home against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	2 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	1 points
NCAA Division III	0 points
NCCAA Division I	0 points
NCCAA Division II	0 points

II. POWER POINTS

The rating is determined by adding the power points for the season, dividing by the number of games, and carrying the result to the third decimal place.

III. RANKINGS BASED ON POWER POINTS

Teams shall be ranked each week throughout the season using this rating system. The rating system is only as accurate as the information supplied on the game results form. Each institution shall gather and report the most accurate data possible.

Appendix C
NCCAA SOFTBALL ALL-AMERICAN NOMINATION FORM

(Please duplicate this form as needed. Please type or print the information.)

Nominee _____ Uniform # _____ Position _____
Conference/Affiliation _____ NCCAA Region _____
Institution _____ Class _____
Address _____ Hometown _____
_____ Coach _____

Position (s) for which you are nominating the player:

___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ OF ___ DP ___ UT

** The NCCAA Statistical Summary MUST be completed on the back of this sheet and game by game analysis are to be sent with nomination form **

If nominated for Utility Pos: _____ % of games: _____ Pos: _____ % of games: _____

If nominated for DP Pos: _____ % of games: _____ Pos: _____ % of games: _____

Number of game winning hits _____ Against _____

Major contributions to team's success: _____

Softball honors: _____

Coaches Comments (technical proficiency, execution, consistency, what makes her special): _____

Team record: W/L _____ Team NCCAA Regional finish _____

(continued)

NCCAA Softball All-American Nomination Form Page Two

Nominee _____

Position _____

Institution _____

Summary of all game-by-game analysis sheets

CATCHERS/OUTFIELDERS/INFELDERS

G	AB	R	H	BA	2B	3B	HR	SLUG %	RBI	SAC	SO	BB	OB%

Catchers Only								
SB	SBA	PO	A	E	%	SBA	CS	PB

Summary of all game-by-game analysis sheets

PITCHERS

G	GS	CG	W	L	SAVES	IP	R	ER	ERA	BF	1B	2B	3B

HR	WP	BB	SO	BB/ AVG	SO/ AVG

- Forms should include all statistics through regional play.
- Each coach is responsible for faxing or emailing nomination forms to the All-American Chair by the established deadline.

The above mentioned student-athlete has my support as a viable nominee for NCCAA post-season honors. Her behavior on and off the field is complimentary to the NCCAA and its Christ- like standards.

Coach's Signature

Date

Athletic Director's Signature

Date

Appendix D
NCCAA Softball Scholar-Athlete Nomination Form

Please duplicate this form as needed. Please type or print the information.

Student-Athlete's Name: _____

Institution: _____ State: _____

Class: _____ (only juniors and seniors are eligible) Major: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ (must be 3.40 or higher)

The above named student-athlete has my support as a viable nominee for NCCAA postseason honors. Her behavior both on and off the field is complimentary to the NCCAA and its Christ-like standards.

Head Coach's Signature

Date

Registrar's Signature (verification of GPA)

Date